

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process for making a stable colloid for gene transfer, said stable colloid comprising neutral or anionic complexes containing sequestered DNA for gene transfer, said process comprising modifying a precursor colloid comprising a complex which has a cationic surface potential and comprises DNA and cationic lipids or polymers by reacting said cationic lipids or polymers with a reagent to reduce, remove or reverse said cationic surface potential, said reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate : forming a stable colloid comprising an aqueous phase having suspended therein a first DNA complex with a cationic surface potential comprising a DNA sequence complexed with a cationic lipid or polymer comprising one or more cationic head groups; and modifying the surface potential of said first DNA complex to form a stable colloid comprising a second DNA complex with a neutral or net anionic surface potential by reacting said cationic head groups with a reagent that reacts with the cationic head group to neutralize the positive charge thereon.

Claims 2 to 6 (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said cationic lipid or polymer is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.

Claims 8 to 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said ~~first DNA complex~~

further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a said cationic lipid or polymer.

Claims 12 and 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of said ~~first DNA~~ complex.
15. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said ~~first DNA~~ complex.

Claims 16 and 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A stable colloid comprising an aqueous phase having suspended therein a DNA complex which has a neutral or net anionic surface potential, said complex comprising: (A) DNA; and (B) cationic lipids or polymers, one or more of which have been reacted with a reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate ~~first DNA complex with a cationic surface potential comprising an exogenous therapeutic DNA sequence of delivery in vivo to a patient in need thereof, complexed with a cationic lipid or polymer comprising one or more cationic head groups modified by reaction with a reagent that reacts with the cationic head group and neutralizes the positive charge thereon.~~
19. (Previously Presented) A method for gene therapy by delivering in vivo an

exogenous therapeutic DNA sequence to a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of the colloid of claim 18.

20. (New) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipid or polymer is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.
21. (New) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a cationic lipid or polymer.
22. (New) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of said complex.
23. (New) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.
24. (New) The process of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipid or polymer is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.
25. (New) The process of Claim 19, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a cationic lipid or polymer.
26. (New) The process of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of said complex.
27. (New) The process of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic

head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.

28. (New) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipid contains hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.
29. (New) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipid contains a hydrophobic moiety which is a myristyl chain or a palmityl chain.
30. (New) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.
31. (New) The process of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipid contains hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.
32. (New) The process of Claim 19, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.